

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MOTHER
TERESA OF CALCUTTA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mother Teresa, who began her decades of service to humanity with the simple goal of helping the less fortunate and grew to be a symbol for human rights all over the world.

At the age of eighteen, Mother Teresa became a Roman Catholic sister, the beginning of her life as an educator, a leader, and a servant of God. Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was the establishment of the religious order, Missionaries of Charity. With over 5,000 sisters, the goal of Missionaries of Charity is to help the poor in all aspects of life, providing food, clothing, and shelter to millions of the world's most destitute. Additionally, Mother Teresa initiated countless relief projects, international peace-keeping missions, and medical assistance projects for the needy. Later in life, even as her own health deteriorated, she pressed on with new projects, including the creation of hospice programs for those living with AIDS.

A well-deserving recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the impact of this remarkable woman will last forever. I could not be more pleased to join in remembering Mother Teresa of Calcutta as a shining example of selfless dedication to human kindness. She was an inspiring example for us all.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL—BUT IS IT SECURE? AN EXAMINATION OF INTERNET VULNERABILITIES AFFECTING BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, AND HOMES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Chairman DAVIS and Ranking Member WAXMAN for calling this important hearing on Internet vulnerabilities and security threats. One such vulnerability is computer viruses and I know first hand how tedious and cumbersome computer infections can be. In the past year, I have had several computer viruses and they are costly and time consuming to fix.

Through my Washington Update, I regularly email my constituents about what's happening in DC. When I wrote to my constituents about today's hearing and requested that they share with me some of their experiences with computer viruses, the response was immediate and resounding. I was immediately inundated with e-mails about the economic, social, and personal toll computer viruses have on the lives of my constituents.

Let me share a sample of these stories with you today to highlight the impact viruses can have on our daily lives.

Mark Patton, Vice President of American Remedial Technology, a small company in my community, wrote in and said:

Our business was victimized by a number of computer viruses on one occasion. We had hired an IT consultant to provide maintenance of our network, but unfortunately they were not keeping up with our virus protection. As a result we had to replace our server, upgrade our system, and subsequently fire our IT consultant. This episode cost our small business over \$10,000 without considering the lost time we incurred. Viruses are a threat to all businesses. . . . The lesson is buyers beware when hiring an IT consultant, but more importantly as businesses become more dependant on the Internet, Internet security becomes a very important issue.

Mission Hills Mortgage Bankers/Gateway Business Bank wrote in and said:

During the height of the virus-infected e-mail, Mission Hills Mortgage Bankers/Gateway Business Bank webmail site was swamped with thousands of virus-laden e-mails a day in August and September. Fortunately, our firewall and virus software caught and cleaned up the e-mail, but the sanitized e-mail was passed through to the individuals to whom it was addressed. Personally, I was deleting 30 to 50 e-mails a day, both annoying and time consuming.

What I didn't know was how vulnerable a home computer with DSL or cable access is without a firewall even with virus-checker software. I wasn't aware that viruses can come thru to your computer in ways other than on an e-mail until I got one. That was a month ago. I purchased and installed a firewall right away. But I am still experiencing a problem with my computer. Apparently, the damage to files can remain after the virus is cleaned up.

This problem has not only affected businesses. Rio Hondo College wrote in and said:

We were hit hard by the "worm" at Rio Hondo College during the first week of our semester this Fall. Our mainframe computer and every desktop computer on campus were unusable for a week. We could not register students, certify athletic eligibility of athletes, process financial aid requests, conduct many classes, or function in any capacity for a whole week. Eight weeks later we are still trying to get computers and printers and e-mail functioning for every one.

Diane Schumacher wrote in and said:

I had a virus in September of this year. It was the SO/BIG Virus. I got it when I purchased an item over the Internet that came with an attachment. I have been laid-off. The last thing I needed was to be out of contact with not only EDD, the Employment Development Department, but also with my job search and support groups. Not to mention the expense of repair.

If the stories could not get any worst, this particular antidote affected me the most, Mark Calt wrote in and said:

I'd like to take pictures of my daughter who currently is 2 years old. I used my digital camera to take a picture of her from the moment she was born and every single month until she reached her first birthday. I stored all those pictures in my hard drive so when I am ready, I'll sort them all out and have them developed and make a nice album that I can show to my daughter when she grows up and maybe play a slide show during her debut (18th Birthday Party). But my computer was hit by the virus just before I got them developed . . . my one year worth of project, my dream, and my gift to my daughter are all gone together with the pictures. I would pay—no matter what the price—if I could retrieve all those pictures . . . they were priceless . . . you cannot bring back the hands of time!

The stories I've shared with you today underscore the prevalence of computer infections. Furthermore, computer viruses are a "real problem" not just for businesses, but home users are also affected by this costly burden. An unemployed constituent, a community college, a bank and a father, all have been victimized by computer viruses. Computer viruses affect all of us.

There is much work ahead of us to eradicate threat, so I thank each of the witnesses for being here today to discuss this important topic and I look forward to your testimony. Again, I would like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for having this hearing.

INTRODUCING THE MARINE MAMMAL PRESERVATION AND RECOVERY ACT (MMPRA) OF 2003

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was enacted in 1972, it was with a vision of protection and precaution. It was created to right the ecological wrongs caused by generations of slaughter driven by our collective greed for the products that marine mammals supplied. The founding goal of the MMPA was to provide a broad moratorium on the taking of marine mammals in order to maintain and rebuild healthy populations of whales and dolphins, seals and sea lions, and other marine mammals.

To a noteworthy extent, protection and precaution have paid off. We should celebrate that some marine mammal species have recovered to estimated pre-harvest levels. But we should not be lulled into a false sense of complacency. Many populations, such as North Atlantic right whales and bowhead whales in the Arctic, remain endangered. We also cannot ignore that the full breadth and intensity of human activity in the ocean, including shipping, oil and gas exploration, and military activity, has a profound effect on marine mammals, even if we do not seek to kill them outright.

It is for these reasons that I introduce this bill today that would reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act in a way that preserves its precautionary intent. Summarizing key provisions, the bill would:

Provide a refined definition for the term "harassment" that is consistent with the recommendations of the National Research Council and accounts for the cumulative, as opposed to merely incidental, effects of behavioral changes in marine mammals.

Enhance protections for marine mammals in captivity, including the establishment of a new advisory committee to encourage the promulgation of regulations by the Secretary of Agriculture for captive care and maintenance, an updated and publicly accessible captive marine mammal inventory, and elimination of all marine mammal traveling exhibits.

Provide increased funding opportunities for the development of fishing gear that would decrease harmful interactions with marine mammals.

Authorize research and grant programs to study methods of non-lethal deterrence and